

Milwaukee County Board

Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., 10th District Supervisor Jason Haas, 14th District Supervisor Nikiya Harris, 2nd District Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, 4th District Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., 1st District Supervisor John Weishan, Jr., 16th District

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MONEY LEFT ON THE BARGAINING TABLE; NEGOTIATION AND ACTION NEEDED!

Milwaukee, WI – Six Milwaukee County Supervisors issued the following statements in conjunction with their petition to the County Clerk calling for a second special meeting of the County Board on Thursday, June 16, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. Ten Supervisors have signed the petition calling for the special meeting.

Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., outlined their goals this way,

"The majority of the Milwaukee County Board wants to negotiate a potential voluntary settlement with District Council 48 of AFSCME (the American Federations of State, County and Municipal Employees) and vote on a proposed money saving settlement with our Nurses' Union (Wisconsin Nurses and Health Professionals)."

Supervisor Nikiya Harris commented,

"Both contracts hold the potential to yield millions of dollars in savings through higher employee healthcare payments, pension contributions, and other changes. The Milwaukee County Department of Administration has estimated that the proposed one-year extension of the nurses' contract would save over \$1.7 Million. The AFSCME contract would save far more as it covers over 3,000 County employees."

Supervisor Jason Haas added,

"We have thousands of valued public employees in Milwaukee County and they deserve an opportunity to negotiate real savings. Too many Madison politicians want to dictate citizens' destiny and push for their collective demise as a workforce."

Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic described the situation behind the scenes by stating,

"A small number of County Board Supervisors are misusing their power and obstructing the process; if they are successful, their actions will waste millions of dollars in taxpayer money and hurt County services. Every day that goes by costs us all."

Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., added

"We have gathered signatures from the majority of Milwaukee County Supervisors, to hold a second special County Board meeting, to take up these issues on Thursday, June 16, 2011, at 1:30 PM. Extraordinary action is needed on these matters because taxpayer money is being squandered in a high stakes political poker game that risks the public's interests."

Supervisor John Weishan, Ir., summed it up with this statement,

"Eight years of Scott Walker has left Milwaukee County with many costly lawsuits and disputes, particularly in regard to our County employees. The majority of Milwaukee County citizens respect the rights of public workers to negotiate, value the work that they do every day, and respect their expectation of fair wages and benefits in return. The County Board needs to get the job done, save money, and avoid costly delays and litigation."